

SENATE BILL 205
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 2
and Title 2, Chapter 7, to enact the "Tennessee Election
Day Registration Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Election Day
Registration Act".

SECTION 2.

(a) The legislature finds that:

(1) Many individuals are unable to vote on election day because of
inefficiencies and mistakes in the voter registration system.

(2) Precincts with predominantly minority populations are most affected
by inaccurate voting rolls.

(3) Election day registration would increase voter participation in
elections, which strengthens our democratic institutions.

(4) Election day registration has been successfully tested in a number of
states.

(b) This act is enacted to improve the state's election process, enfranchise voters, and increase the participation of Tennessee citizens in its government.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-109, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(c)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) and (b), an individual who is eligible to vote may register and vote on election day by:

(A) Appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence.

(B) Completing a registration form, making an oath in the prescribed form.

(C) Providing proof of residence.

(2) An individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by showing any of the following items listing a valid address in the precinct:

(A) A Tennessee driver's license or identification card issued by the department of safety.

(B) A lease or utility bill together with a government issued photo identification card.

(C) A student identification card from a postsecondary educational institution in Tennessee accompanied by a current student fee statement.

(3) Election day registration provided in this subsection shall apply to all elections conducted in this state, including national, state, municipal, and school district elections.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.